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INFORMATION REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

(December 1959)

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(December 1959)

INTRODUCTION

This monthly report provides significant political, economic, sociological, and military information on Afghanistan as presented by the Kabul and provincial newspapers and periodicals in the Persian and Pekhtu languages, particularly the leading Kabul daily newspapers Anis and Islah. Items of purely international significance have been excluded. This report covers the sources indicated published mainly during the month of December 1959.

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INFORMATION REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Comments, Trends, and Developments

The Pakhtunistan Issue and Relations with Pakistan

1. In an editorial commenting on the forthcoming trip of Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im to Pakistan (see JPRS report 1164-D of 12 February 1960, para 3, page 2), the newspaper Anis stated that the acceptance of the foreign minister to visit Pakistan was another proof of the desire by Afghanistan to settle its dispute with Pakistan. The question of Pakhtunistan is the only issue which has deteriorated the normal relations between the two countries. The invitation by the government of the new regime in Pakistan extended to the Afghan Foreign Minister is encouraging.

The newspaper Islah commented on the expected trip in its editorial of December 1 by contradicting the statements published by the Karzhi newspaper Dan. The latter newspaper had said in its issue of 27 November that the foreign minister of Afghanistan and the president of Pakistan will discuss the question of the influence of the USSR in Afghanistan. Islah stated that "this ridiculous statement is a reflection of the typical interpretation of the Pakistan press". Afghanistan has never accepted any foreign influence. The statement by Dan that Afghanistan is not fully satisfied with the present Soviet influence is vicious, stated Islah. The statement that Afghanistan may negotiate the possibility of joining the CENTO pact is equally unrealistic. Finally the strange commentary of the newspaper Dan concludes that the question of Pakhtunistan will not be discussed between the foreign minister of Afghanistan and the Pakistan authorities. This cannot be true because the visit of the foreign minister is only for the purpose of discussing this issue which is the only source of misunderstanding between the two countries. Referring to the reporting of the Qandahar incident (see the Political section below), the newspaper Islah called the Pakistan press irresponsible and lacking in dignity.

On December 3 the newspaper Islah published another editorial on the subject of the visit in which it said that the present regime in Pakistan has failed to appreciate the position of Afghanistan and has refused to take any realistic steps toward the settlement of the Pakhtunistan issue which is the only source of dispute between the two countries. It is hoped and expected that the government of Pakistan will take this opportunity to settle this outstanding question in a realistic manner, concluded the editorail.

2. The newspaper Anis attacked Radio Karachi and "other propaganda sources" of Pakistan on 29 December for giving "exaggerated and false" reports concerning the incident in Qandahar. The newspaper denied the allegations that the mobs in Qandahar had murdered the chief justice of the province, had attacked the local prison and had released 400 inmates, and that the conditions were still abnormal. We are well aware, said Anis, of the intentions of the propaganda machinery in Pakistan and of the local imperialistic intrigues in order to divert the attention of the people from the conditions and the developments in their own country. We are only surprised that notwithstanding all this misconduct and evil intentions, the Pakistan propaganda machinery should still expect the people of Afghanistan to believe it.

In an editorial on 30 December the same newspaper condemned the reports of Radio Karachi as imperialistic and evil-intentioned.

3. The newspaper Anis published an interview with the visiting Yugoslav press delegation on 28 December (see the Political section of this report) in which the memebrs of the delegatation said that the attitude of the Yugoslav authoiries toward the question of Pakhtunistan was to support the United Nations principle of self-determination for all peoples.

4. On the occasion of the death of Prince Marshal Shah Muhammad Khan (see Obituary under the Political section of this report), reported Anis on 31 December, Azam Khan, a cabinet minister, and other government personalities in Karachi went to the Afghan embassy to sign the special book. Radio Karachi cancelled music from its Persian programs.

5. The Kabul and provincial newspapers continued to publish articles in Pakhtu referring to the Pakistan attitude toward Pakhtunistan as imperialistic, inhumane, cruel, and unrealistic.

Relations with the Communist Bloc

1. The newspaper Anis reported on 19 December that negotiations began on 17 December at the Ministry of Commerce in Afghanistan for the exchange of goods and payments between Afghanistan and the USSR.
2. The press attache of the Soviet embassy in Kabul gave a party in honor of the out-going Tass representative and his replacement in Kabul; the new Tass representative was introduced to the editorial staff of the newspaper Anis on 5 December (Anis, 6 and 19 December).
3. On the occasion of the death of two prominent members of the staff of the Independent Department of Press, Rashad and Zhubei (see JPRS report 1164-D of 12 February 1960, page 15), the oriental studies association of the Academy of Sciences USSR sent a message to the director of the Independent Department of Press (Anis, 12 December). Marshal Voroshilov sent messages to King Zahir and Marshal Shah Wali Khan on the occasion of the death of Marshal Shah Mahmud Khan (Anis, 31 December).
4. The following five students of the School of Sciences, University of Kabul, left for the Soviet Union on 18 December for higher education, reported Anis on 20 December:

Mohammed Anwar, Ghulam Rasul, and Mohammad Naser of the second year majoring in mathematics; they will study atomic physics, astrophysics, and applied mathematics respectively; Mohammad Yasin of the second year majoring in chemistry to study analytic chemistry; and Mohammad Islam of the third year in chemistry to study inorganic chemistry.
5. The newspaper Anis continued to publish large-size advertisements for the various commercial organizations in the communist countries (see JPRS report 1164-D of 12 February 1960, para 8, page 5). Among the new advertisers were the Inturist in the USSR urging tourists to visit the winter resorts in the Soviet Union, the Czech Technexport, and a one-half page advertisement describing the goods that Poland can send to Afghanistan.
6. The newspaper Anis reported on 28 December that two books were recently published in Communist China on Afghanistan: one is called Afghanistan and deals with history, geography, economics, international position, and the diplomatic and cultural relations of Afghanistan with other countries; the other book, called

The Afghan Folklore Stories, contains 40 popular folklore stories of the Afghan people.

7. The newspaper Anis published a picture of the console of a BESM 2 electronic computer in its issue of 3 December with a description saying that this Soviet computer can solve 8,000 arithmetic problems in one second.

8. The Mazar-i-Sharif newspaper Bidar reported on 20 December that the ambassador of Communist China invited the cabinet ministers and other dignitaries in Kabul to a film show at the Park Theater in Kabul in honor of the Chinese tenth anniversary where films depicting agricultural and industrial developments in China were shown.

9. The second secretary of the Chinese embassy in Kabul presented a number of books to the library of the newspaper Islah on 22 December (Anis, 23 December).

10. The newspaper Anis reported on 24 December that the Chinese students, who have come to Kabul to study the Paktu and Persian languages, were introduced to the president of Kabul University, Mohammed Asghar, on 23 December by the secretary of the Chinese embassy and that they started taking the relevant courses.

11. The charge d'affaires of the Polish embassy in Kabul held a reception on 1 December to celebrate the opening of the Polish industrial exhibition in Kabul. Speeches were exchanged between the Polish commercial attache and the Afghan Minister of Commerce, Mohammed Shirzad. The exhibition is established on permanent basis. (Anis, 2 December). b

The Eisenhower Visit

1. The Kabul and provincial newspapers hailed the world tour of President Eisenhower as an unprecedented trip of great importance. tri Starting a few days before the visit to Afghanistan, the newspapers kept publishing portraits and editorials stating how anxiously the people of Afghanistan awaited the visit. In its editorial of 8 December the newspaper Anis stated: only a few hours are left before the arrival of President Eisenhower, and the people in Kabul are anxiously waiting to see and welcome their great guest, an international personality who is the president of 176 million inhabitants of the United States, a country which has friendly ties with Afghanistan.

In its editorial of 9 December, the newspaper Islah cited the efforts and the leadership provided by President Eisenhower to maintain the peace and security of the world. On 10 December the newspaper Anis published the texts of the speeches exchanged between President Eisenhower and King Zahir as well as the text of the joint communique issued by the two leaders. On 12 December the same newspaper published an editorial praising President Eisenhower for greeting the people with a Pakhtu phrase upon his arrival at the airport.

2. A correspondent of the newspaper Anis reported on 13 December in an article that for the first time in the history of Afghanistan a large number of women came out into the streets of Kabul to see President Eisenhower and to greet him.

Weather Report

1. Following is a report on the average temperatures for the month of December 1959 at various centers in Afghanistan compiled from the daily weather reports in the Kabul and provincial newspapers.

<u>District</u>	<u>Maximum Temperature</u>		<u>Minimum Temperature</u>	
	Degrees	Centigrade	Degrees	Centigrade
Kabul	08		-04	
Herat	09		-02	
Mazar-i-Sharif	09		-02	
Qandahar	14		-02	
Ghazni	05		-05	
Maimana	08		-01	
Qunduz	08		-03	
Jalalabad	18		-02	
Baghlan	05		-01	

2. On 17 December 45 centimeters of snow fell in Khust. On 16 December two men and 36 donkeys and horses died because of heavy snow storms at Aowni Pass near Behsud. Traffic on the Leta Pass near Kabul was stopped for two days because of heavy snows. (Anis, 19 December).

3. The following earthquakes were reported by the newspaper Anis in the course of the month: at 17:45 hours local time on 5 December at Qarabagh, Ghazni; at 15:14 hours local time on 17 December at Qarabagh, Ghazni; at 15:30 hours local time on 18 December at Faizabad

and its vicinity; at 11:20 hours local time on 22 December at Faizabad;
at 13:00 and 16:00 hours local time on 24 December at Jaghatu and
Qarabagh, Ghazni.

SELECTED ITEMS

Political

US HELP TO DEVELOP AFGHAN CIVIL AVIATION -- Kabul, Anis, 1 Dec 59

The director of the United States civil aviation service, General Casada, who is visiting Afghanistan, had meetings with Minister of Finance Abd-Allah Malekyar, Director of Afghan Civil Aviation Authority Hakimi, and other officials in Kabul and discussed questions connected with the development projects for civil aviation, airports, workshops, and housing facilities.

KING ZAHIR TO VISIT UAR -- Kabul, Anis, 1, 2, and 6 Dec 59

King Zahir has accepted an invitation from Gamal Abd-an-Nasser to visit the United Arab Republic at an unspecified future date. [In an editorial on 2 December, the newspaper Anis gave an outline of the history of relations between Afghanistan and Egypt and contended that the visit will further solidify the ties of friendship between the two countries].

[In an editorial on 6 December, the newspaper Anis maintained that the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations between the UAR and Great Britain marked the completion of the victory of Gamal Abd-an-Naser].

GERMAN TECHNICAL AID TO IMPROVE BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM -- Kabul, Anis, 5 Dec 59

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Mines and Industries in Kabul on 2 December with the West German technical cooperation delegation to discuss plans for the improvement of the bookkeeping systems of the industrial organizations in Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION -- Kabul, Anis, 6 Dec 59

Abd-al-Wahab Tarzi, the director of the Afghan Tourism Organization, who participated in an international tourism conference in

Manila recently, stated upon return to Kabul that Afghanistan has been admitted to the international organization as an official member.

AFGHAN DELEGATION TO A FAIR IN INDIA -- Kabul, Anis, 9 Dec 59

An Afghan delegation consisting of the following members left for India on 6 December to participate at the Indian agricultural exhibition in Delhi: Gholam Naqshband, director of the foreign relations department of the Ministry of Agriculture; Nawabi, an employee of the foreign relations department of the Ministry of Agriculture; 'Abd-al-Hadi Sufizada, deputy director of exhibitions, Ministry of Agriculture; Mohammad 'Alam Taraki, representative of the Helmand Valley Development Project Authority; Gholam Jilani Sadeqi, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Jilani is the head of the delegation.

YUGOSLAV PRESS DELEGATION IN AFGHANISTAN -- Kabul, Anis, 16, 19, and 28 Dec 59

A Yugoslav press delegation consisting of the director of the newspaper Borba and the director of the foreign programs of the Yugoslav radio-television service, which is visiting the Middle Eastern countries arrived in Kabul on 14 December. Members of the delegation will stay in Kabul for five days.

Members of the delegation called on Afghan officials, including various cabinet ministers, attended parties given in their honor, and visited various organizations in Kabul. In an interview with a representative of the Balktar News Agency on 17 December, they expressed their admiration of the various development projects in Afghanistan and pointed to the similarity of foreign policies conducted by Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

In another interview with a correspondent of the newspaper Anis members of the delegation stated that after talking to various Afghan government officials they have come to the conclusion that the relations between Afghanistan and Yugoslavia would be further developed and strengthened [see also para 3 on page 2 of this report].

COMMERCIAL AND COOPERATION TREATIES SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA -- Kabul, Anis, 19, 21, 22, and 31 Dec 59

A Yugoslav trade delegation, headed by a representative of the

Togo Dau Ministry of Foreign Trade arrived in Kabul on 17 December. After a series of meetings and negotiations with Afghan officials agreements were signed between the two countries for trade relations and economic and technical cooperation on 30 December [no further details given].

AFGHAN PREMIER TO VISIT BRITAIN AND AUSTRIA -- Kabul, Anis, 16 and 17 Dec 59

Premier Mohammad Daud has accepted an invitation from the British government to visit Great Britain in the course of the coming year [1960]. The date of the visit will be announced later.

It is understood that Premier Mohammad Daud will visit Vienna for a few days for medical consultation and examination. The date of the visit has not been announced yet.

[In an editorial on 17 December, the newspaper Anis recalled the importance of the role of Britain in international affairs and stated that Afghanistan has ancient relations with Britain which have been developing in the course of the recent years. It is hoped, said the paper, that this visit will further expand the cordial relations between the two countries].

TOWARD AVIATION TREATY WITH YUGOSLAVIA -- Kabul, Anis, 26 Dec 59

The director general of aviation, Golbahar, and the director of aviation laws and regulations, Mohammad Isma'il Nawasan, left for Yugoslavia on 25 December via Moscow to negotiate and sign an aviation treaty between Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AND APPOINTMENTS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 2-30 Dec 59

Premier Mohammad Daud has sent a message to Turkey expressing his concern over the death of the Turkish officers who died in an accident of an Afghan Aryana airliner while on their way to Afghanistan to act as instructors.

The Japanese ambassador in Kabul has presented some road machinery to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The new West German ambassador in Kabul had an interview with the Deputy Minister of Planning, 'Abd-al-Hay 'Aziz on December 1.

King Zahir has approved the appointment of the Argentine ambassador in Teheran as minister to Kabul at the same time.

The cultural attache of the UAR embassy in Kabul presented a number of scientific, economic, and sociological books to the Ministry of Planning in Kabul.

The military attache of the Iranian embassy, Malek Ahmadi, gave a reception on 13 December to celebrate the Iranian Army Day. Prince Marshal Shah Wali Khan Ghazi and other dignitaries attended.

The cultural attache of the Indian embassy in Kabul has presented a number of medical books and periodicals to the Ministry of Public Health.

King Zahir received a series of messages from the heads of various foreign states on the occasion of the death of Prince Marshal Shah Mahmud Khan Ghazi [see Obituary]. Heads of the diplomatic missions in Kabul signed a special book at the royal palace. In London, the British Foreign Secretary went to the Afghan embassy to express the concern of his government.

AFGHAN PREMTER DESCRIBES DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY — Kabul, Anis,
7 Dec 59

Premier Mohammad Daud inspected the schools of law and economics of Kabul University on 5 December and answered the questions put him by the students.

Referring to the domestic policy, the premier said that the policy was based on the economic and social development of the country based on the strengthening of a national democratic and Islamic regime which is compatible with the present conditions in the world and can best suit the national and traditional needs of the Afghan people. At the head of the program for the achievement of this goal, said the premier, are plans for the educational developments and facilities.

The premier further stated: the foreign policy of Afghanistan is based on the desire of the people for neutrality with free judgement and non-participation in any blocs.

The premier expressed his satisfaction of the great social movement undergoing in the country.

DISTRICT CHANGES NAME -- Kabul, Anis, 19 Dec 59

Through the proposal of the government of Qandahar, consent of the Council of Ministers, and approval of King Zahir the name of the district of Kashk-i-Nakhud in Qandahar Major Province has been changed to Meywand. The district was the site of many historic scenes during the Afghan war of independence.

ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN QANDAHAR -- Kabul, Anis, 22 Dec; Mazar-i-Sharif, Bidar, 25 Dec 59

The Ministry of Interior has reported that on the morning of 21 December a number of people, instigated by certain trouble-makers who wanted to evade payment of over due government taxes, staged demonstrations in Qandahar. The police and security forces intervened and scattered the demonstrators. Three persons were killed and eight others were wounded in the incident. The instigators have been arrested and the conditions are normal in the city.

OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES AND APPOINTMENTS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 1-31 Dec; Faizabad, Badakhshan, 8 and 24 Dec; Herat, Ittefaq-i-Islam, 30 Dec 59

Minister of Public Works Mohammed Kabir returned to Kabul after an inspection tour of the Qataghan Major Province. He inspected the development projects in the province, constructional activities in Qizil Qala Port, and work on the Salang Highway.

The acting governor of Herat, Wahed, inspected the schools in the city on December 1.

Afghan Ambassador in Washington Mohammad Hashim Maiwandwal arrived in Kabul on 1 December.

King Zahir granted a sum of money to the survivors of Mowlana Rashed and Mohammad Heydar Zhubel (employees of the Independent Department of Press) who died in an aircraft accident last month. This gesture of the king has pleased the press circles in Afghanistan.

The director of the Aryana Afghan Airline left for the United

States to purchase aircrafts from the US manufacturers.

The director of professional education of the Ministry of Education, Mohammad Heydar, arrived in Khust to inspect the technical school. He conferred with Lt. General Feyz Mohammad, governor and military commander of Paktiya Major Province.

The general assembly of the publications organizations association has approved the appointment of Gholam Gowth Khabiri as the acting director of the periodical Pashtun Zagh.

Gol-Mohammad Shinwari, the governor of Wakhan, Badakhshan Province, has arrived in Faizabad after spending his leave in Kabul.

Premier Mohammad Daud inspected Malali School in Kabul on 8 December, where examinations for girl students were in progress, and spoke about the role of the girl students and the women in the recent social movement started in Afghanistan.

The 38 graduates of the School of Medicine were given appointments at various health and sanitary organizations on 8 December.

King Zahir has approved the appointment of 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, a Grade 2 civil service officer, as the president of the preliminary court for the prosecution of the civil service employes.

Governor and Mayor of Kabul 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Mohammad Sadiq respectively were among the personages received by King Zahir during the week ending on 12 December.

Minister of Finance 'Abd-Allah Malekyar and Deputy Minister of Planning 'Abd-al-Hay 'Aziz left for Qandahar on 10 December to inspect the progress of development activities at the Arghandab and Helmand Valleys.

Afghan Ambassador in Karachi Dr. 'Abd-al-Zahir arrived in Kabul on 12 December on official business.

Premier Mohammad Daud awarded Education Medals to the following on 12 December: 'Ali Mohammad, first deputy premier, Education Medal First Class; Dr. 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Kakur, dean of the School of Sciences, Education Medal Third Class; Turyali E'temadi, dean of the School of Engineering, Education Medal Third Class. Minister of Education Dr. Pupal was present at the ceremony. Further medals were sent to the provinces to be presented to those who were not

in Kabul to receive them.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Nai'm inspected the progress of examinations at the School of Law on 16 December.

The following ten graduates from the School of Medicine have been appointed as instructors at the School: Zamen 'Ali and Mohammad Rasul, surgery department; Mohammad Ayyub, skin disease department; Mohammed Kahir, optical department; Mohammad Gol, ear, throat, and nose department; 'Abd-al-Rehman, radiology department; Seyyed Soltan, bacteriology department; 'Abd-as-Sattar, anatomy department; Gholam Reza, internal medicine department; and Seyyed Morteza, biochemistry department.

Mohammad Yusef A'ina has been appointed the director of publications, and the acting director of the library and museum of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The general assembly of the National Bank approved the following appointments: 'Abd-al-Majid Zaboli, director of the supreme council; Mohammad 'Omar, deputy director of the supreme council; Hikam Chand, managing director; 'Abd-al-Rahim Majid, deputy director for industrial and commercial affairs.

Premier Mohammad Daud received and addressed the graduates of the Schools of Engineering and Agriculture on 19 December.

'Ali Mohammad Zakariya, who was sent to France by the Ministry of Mines and Industries to study social insurances and other social and economic subjects under a fellowship awarded by the International Labor Organization, returned to Kabul after completing his studies.

Ahmed Shah, who was sent to West Germany by the Ministry of Education to study biology, returned to Kabul after obtaining his PhD.

Bolbol-Shah, who was sent to West Germany by Kabul University to study chemistry, returned to Kabul after obtaining his PhD.

The Mayor of Kabul has awarded commendation certificates third class to Director of Sanitations 'Abd-al-Rahman and Director of the Second Zone Ruh-Allah Mohtadi.

The following personages were received by King Zahir in the course of the week ending on 25 December: Minister of Interior

and Acting Minister of Justice Seyyed 'Abi-Allah, Afghan Ambassador in Karachi Dr. 'Abd-al-Zahir, Afghan Ambassador in Washington Mohammad Hashem Maiwandwal, Afghan Ambassador in Tokyo Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, Deputy Director of the Helmand Valley Project Dr. 'Abd-al-Qayyum, and Director of Village Development Project 'Abd-al-Wahab Malekyar.

Acting Governor of Badakhshan Mohammad 'Omar Mostowfi inspected the prison in Faizabad on 23 December.

Habib, Besmellah, and Geran, who were sent to the United States last year by the Aryana Airline to learn flying, have returned to Kabul after completing their training. The Aryana Airline sent Seyyed Baba to the United States on 27 December to learn flying.

King Zahir has awarded Rashtra Medals to the following employes of the Department of Transportation: Director of Transportation Gol-Ahmad, former Director of Administration Mohammad Akhtar, Director of Inspections Ahmad Zia', former Director of Inspections 'Abd-al-Wahed, Director of Personnel Mohammad Anwa, Director of Transportation in Herat Mohammad Sadiq, Director of Transportation in Mazar-i-Sharif Mir Abu-Allah, former Director of Transportation Faqir Mohammad (the latter is now the director of supplies of the Kabul Municipality).

Madam Golsum Najni has been appointed deputy medical director at the Dental Organization in Qandhar.

Rustam 'Ali Soltni, deputy administrative director of Kabul Radio, and 'Abd-al-Haq Mobarez, deputy director of the internal programs of Kabul Radio, have been sent to France by the Independent Department of Press to study journalism under a fellowship program awarded by the French government.

Director of Music of Kabul Radio Hafiz-Allah Kheyal, who had gone to India to purchase musical instruments, returned to Kabul on 29 December.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Wase' has been appointed the chief physician of the central clinic of the health organizations under Kabul University.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS -- Kabul, Anis, 19-30 Dec 59

Premier Mohammad Daoud and other dignitaries attended the funeral service of the former governor of Parwan, 'Abd-as-Sazad, on 19 December.

Prince Marshal Shah Wali Khan Ghazi and other personages attended the funeral service of Hafez Mohammad Anwar, director of inspections of the Ministry of Justice, on 18 December.

Prince Marshal Shah Mahmud Khan Ghazi, the uncle of King Zahir, died of heart disease in Pul-i-Khumri on 25 December. He was given full-ceremonial burreal and King Zahir and other personages attended his services [Kabul and provincial newspapers published editorials on the life of the prince and stated that the whole nation was mourning because of the loss]. Special services were held throughout the country. A special women service was held by the Queen at the royal palace in Kabul. King Zahir issued a communique on 30 December thanking the people for their concern over the loss of the prince.

Economic

PROGRESS OF SALANG HIGHWAY REPORTED -- Kabul, Islah, 10 Dec 59

Members of the labor forces of the Ministry of Public Works, under the supervision of the Soviet experts and engineers, are working hard to complete the Salang Highway which will cut short the distance between Kabul and the northern provinces by 150 Kilometers.

Work on this highway is divided into three sections: section 1 extends from Dushi to the point where the great tunnel starts, section 2 extends from Charikar to the southern end of the tunnel, and section 3 goes through the Hindu Kush Mountains. Work on section 1 is progressing rapidly. Large and small bridges from Dushi to Doshakh are under construction. A supplementary road for bringing supplies has been completed.

Work on the highway began after an agreement was signed between the Afghan Ministry of Public Works and the Soviet Tekhnoeksport organization.

Section 1 of the highway, from Dushi to Doshakh, has the following specifications: the road is 10 meters wide in flat lands and 9 meters wide on hill-sides. The maximum grade in this section is 7 percent (10% under exceptional conditions). The surface of the road in this section is constructed with stones which will be covered with 6 centimeters of asphalt. This section has 98 water ways, 28 small bridges, and 15 medium and large-size bridges.

Section 2 of the highway extends for 30 kilometers from Jabul-as-Siraj to Aowlang. The road is 10 meters wide on flat lands and 8 to 9 meters wide on hill-sides. Other specifications are same as in Section 1. In section 2 there are 26 waterways, 11 small bridges, and 11 medium and large-size bridges.

Section 3 of the highway extends for 25 kilometers from Aowlang to Doshakh and includes 2.50 kilometers of tunnel construction. This section will also be 10 meters and 9 meters wide. This section has 63 water ways, 12 small bridges, 5 medium-size bridges, and 2 large metal and concrete bridges.

Funds allocated so far for this important project are the following: 19,791,406 afghanis paid by the Afghan government and 12,237,367 dollars loaned by the Soviet government.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HERAT REPORTED -- Kabul, Islam, 1 Dec 59

Campaign against locust was successfully completed in 74,278 square meters of cultivated lands; 41 tons of chemicals were used for this purpose. The laboratory in the province for study of agricultural pests was completed. Over 17,000 trees were sprayed against pests; in addition, 50,000 grape vines were sprayed against a special insect. Work on the construction of the animal laboratory is progressing satisfactorily. The laboratory will have a center for the treatment as well as artificial impregnation of animals. Plans for a plant laboratory are under consideration. Work on the construction of a silk-worm breeding center was completed.

AFGHAN AIRLINE STATISTICS PUBLISHED -- Kabul, Anis, 1 Dec 59

During the first six months of the current Afghan year the Aryana Airline has carried 21,166 passengers and 794,034 kilograms of air cargo.

BIDS INVITED FOR UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTIONS -- Kabul, Anis, 16 Dec 59

Kabul University has invited bids from foreign firms for the construction of buildings for the university.

COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED -- Herat, Ittefaq-i-Islam, 17 Dec; Faizabad, Badakhshan, 30 Dec; Kabul, Anis, 23 Dec 59

Work on the channel system telephone between Qalat and Qandahar was completed. Work has begun on the channel system between Spin Buldak and Qandahar.

A telegraph office was opened in Shindand, Ghurian province. Habib-Allah has been appointed as the director of this new telegraph office.

BRIEF ECONOMIC REPORTS -- Kabul, Anis, 7-28 Dec; Faizabad, Badakhshan, 8 and 24 Dec; Kabul, Islam, 13 Dec; Herat, Ittefaq-i-Islam, 30 Dec 59

The governor of Nangerhar Major Province laid the foundation of the new building for the Department of Press in Jalalabad on 8 December.

Work on the asphalting of the road between Arten Bridge and the Chehel Sotun Palace, started by the Municipality of Kabul, was completed on 6 December. The road is 6 meters wide and extends for 2.50 kilometers.

Work on the asphalting of the streets in Jalalabad began on 11 December.

Nine hundred foreign tourists visited Afghanistan in the course of the last Afghan year, reported the Department of Tourism.

Work on the installation of the three diesel generators, with a capacity of 250 kilowatts, was completed in Herat on 20 December. The power station in Herat has a capacity of 750 kw now.

A laboratory for the artificial breeding of domestic animals was opened in Jalalabad on 21 December.

It is reported from Delhi, India, that the Afghan carpets, skins, and fruits displayed at the international exhibition, have attracted much attention from the public.

The Department of Transportations in Kabul has decided to place 15 taxi cabs in service between Kabul and other major cities each in addition to the regular bus services.

Since the beginning of its production, the new soap factory in Qunduz has produced 338,601 cakes of washing soaps and 54,610 cakes of toilet soaps.

Sociological

KABUL VITAL STATISTICS ISSUED -- Kabul, Anis, 6 Dec 59

In the course of the last month 19 cases of death, 28 births, and 30 marriages were reported in Kabul. The figures for the same month last year were 27 deaths, 33 births, and 57 marriages.

MOVEMENT FOR ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN CONTINUES -- Various Kabul and provincial newspapers

[The movement for the improvement of the social position of women in Afghanistan is in full swing according to the reports published in Kabul and provincial newspapers (see JPRS report 1164-D, 12 February 1960, page 20). Further meetings and lectures were held during the month to encourage the participation of women in public affairs. Opening of many adult education courses for women were reported from various provinces. The newspaper Anis reported on 5 December that plans were under consideration to provide graduate study facilities for girl students].

CLOTHING SITUATION IN KABUL -- Kabul, Anis, 5 Dec 59

Over 50% of the inhabitants of Kabul purchase second hand clothes for wearing. There are 92 second hand clothes shops in Kabul. These shops import over 642,733 kilograms of second hand clothing from abroad annually.

HOUSING PROBLEMS IN KABUL -- Kabul, Anis, 13 Dec 59

The housing situation is deplorable in Kabul. A large number of the civil servants or other passengers who come to Kabul from the provinces have to live in the Sarays [a road station for housing animals and people] in the city under very poor sanitary conditions. A correspondent of Anis visited Eriket Saray behind the new apartment buildings in Kabul. Following is a report submitted by this reporter.

About 350 government servants, workers, and visitors plus about

100 animals live in this Saray which has 80 rooms and 50 stable cabina for animals. Many of the owners of the animals live with their cows, horses, or sheep in the same cabins. There is no drinking water in the Saray -- each person has to carry a container down to the main road to get water from a tap. At 10 O'clock in the evening the doors of the Saray are locked and the electricity is cut off. The place is infested with bugs, insects, and leaking roofs in addition to the objectionable odors from the animals. It is understood that the person who runs this Saray pays an annual rent of 115,000 afghanis to the owner of the property.

PLANS TO SUPPLY WATER TO KABUL -- Kabul, Anis, 21 Dec 59

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Public Health in Kabul on 20 December to discuss plans for the supply of water to Kabul. The Mayor of Kabul and other interested authorities attended the meeting.

BRIEF REPORTS -- Kabul, Anis, 1-30 Dec 59

An organization has been established in Kabul to look after the interests of all the museums in Afghanistan.

The new hospital in Qunduz was opened on 5 December.

A committee has been formed to draw up programs of studies in the School of Medicine and to procure supplies for the health organizations run by the school.

Program of inoculation against small pox is in progress in all the provinces.

The health department in Kabul has started a program for spraying the houses with DDT.

The number of beggars roaming the streets of Kabul has increased recently.

A laboratory for campaign against malaria was opened in Kuzkonar, Paktiya Major Province.

The Ministry of Public Health has decided to discontinue its

practice of announcing the names of doctors who are on duty each evening. Hereafter all doctors residing in Kabul should consider themselves on duty call every evening.

The people of Girishk have donated 23,834 afghanis for the improvement of the local school in Nawa.

The third volume of the Afghan Encyclopedia was published in Kabul. This volume has 494 pages and contains 2,829 subjects.

The Independent Department of Press has decided to spend 600,000 afghanis on the improvement of Kabul Movie Theater in Kabul.

The Directorate of the Village Development Projects has drawn up an extensive plan for fight against illiteracy.

The authorities in Kabul have decided to ban flying kites and pigeons in the city in the public interest. The Municipality of Kabul and the Gendarmerie Department shall enforce this decree.

The Ittehadiya Cotton Company has decided to cooperate with the Ministry of Public Health to improve the sanitary conditions in Qunduz and Taleqan.

Military

THE NEW MILITARY COMMANDER IN HERAT -- Herat, Ittefaq-i-Islam, 25 Dec 59

Major General 'Abd-al-Rauf Rasul, the new military commander of Herat Major Province, arrived in Herat on 22 December.

MILITARY OFFICERS HONORED --- Kabul, Anis, 22 and 26 Dec 59

The governor of Ghurian awarded the certificate for the Wartiya Medal awarded by King Zahir to Senior Captain Gholam Sadiq, the military commander of Ghurian.

The Ministry of Interior has awarded Certificate of Merit of Second Degree to Junior Captain Seyyed Nadir of the Gendarmerie Command in Ghazni for distinguished services.

MILITARY OFFICERS IDENTIFIED --- Kabul, Anis, 3, 5, 19, and 27 Dec; Faizabad, Badakhshan, 7 and 24 Dec; Mazar-i-Sharif, Bidar, 6 and 21 Dec; Herat, Ittefaq-i-Islam, 26 and 30 Dec 59

Governor of Ghazni Seyyed Abbas accompanied by commander of the province Lt. General Zakariya Tarzi and Colonel Mohammad 'Azim inspected the progress of examinations at Sana'i School in Ghazni.

The military commander in Qandahar, Lt. General Khan Mohammad, gave a reception in Qandahar on 2 December. The local personages and their wives attended and lectures were given on the development projects and the movement for the advancement of the women.

General Feyz Mohammad, governor and military commander of Paktiya Major Province, inspected the District of Zarmat on 25 December.

The Gendarmerie Commander in Badakhshan, Major Gol Nabi, inspected the prison in Faizabad on 23 December.

Major General Morad 'Ali, military commander of Nangarhar Major

Province, spoke about the "recent movements in Afghanistan" at a reception given at the officers club on 4 December.

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FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY
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